

Draft minutes of Brighton & Hove Cycling UK AGM 2024
Saturday 13th April 2024
at the Crown and Anchor, 213 Preston Rd, Brighton BN1 6SA

Present: Becky R, Tony G, Julian C, Dave S, Hena R, Guy R, Pat M, Robin B, Graham G, Moritz S, Peter L, John H, Adam P, Rob K, Sukey M.

Apologies: Keith B, Mike G, Christine G, Harry P, Geraldine T, Andy H. Bob S.

The Chair (Becky R) opened the meeting at 12.15 and asked the participants to introduce themselves. Tony G was appointed minute taker.

Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the 2023 AGM were approved.

Matters arising

- The use of Meetup to advertise rides

This had been investigated. Arun Adur Cycling Club had suggested that BH Cycling UK could use some of their spare Meetup allocation and contribute to their subscription, but this was not taken up by the BH Cycling UK committee. It was agreed to look at this again in 2024.

- Covid Officer vacancy

This had not been filled in the previous year and now the Covid situation has changed. It was agreed to try to fill this post if there is a worsening situation. Pat M will be on standby as a potential candidate.

- Club jersey options

No report received. Adam P. liked our current club tops.

Summary reports presented by officers

Chair (Becky R).

“We have had an enjoyable year including a popular Christmas meal, thanks to Hena for organising. Thanks to the Ride Co-ordinators Geraldine, Guy and Dave, to all the Ride Leaders who have generously offered rides, to Keith for fulfilling such a valuable role as Safeguarding Officer, and to Julian and Tony for respectively fulfilling the Treasurer and Secretary roles.

I have been very glad to contribute to the smooth running and promotion of the club by posting rides, news and events to our web page, Facebook and sometimes to Instagram. Instagram has 145 followers, a high number for just a few posts (and we are following only 8). Facebook has 172 likes and 260 followers.

WhatsApp has been a good way to keep in touch. We have good relations with other cycling and campaign groups. This year Geraldine, Tony and Julian are stepping down. We must fill the Secretary and Treasurer roles to continue functioning as a group.”

Secretary (Tony G)

During the year, Cycling UK made changes to their web interface which had implications for using the membership database and posting rides.

There have been changes at Cycling UK’s National Office. Roger Geffen, long term Director of Campaigns and other members of staff (Cherry A.) and the Head of IT have left. The charity is bringing forward a new national strategy in Bike Week, yet to be seen.

Becky R commented that it is a restructure and Cycling UK have also been recruiting for 11 posts as part of this and the new strategy.

Tony said we could do with more ride leaders.

There was some agreement that the £50 Cycling UK membership after 3 rides is a barrier. Graham noted that Breeze ride leaders get free membership. Becky said that Cycling UK had concessions for various reasons, e.g. being a CAN representative. It was observed that we had not posted many rides lately. This was due to a number of factors, particularly with Geraldine having to step down from her ride co-ordinating role, and the weather.

Treasurer (Julian C)

Julian has completed the accounts for this year. The group received £200 from National Office. There was only one transaction for coffee (£40) as part of the 2023 Local Elections Transport Hustings event. The balance is £1,613.

Rides Secretaries/Co-ordinators (Guy R and Dave S)

Guy reported that a small number, 4 or 5 people might attend a ride, and more people would be welcome. Also, more ride leaders. The Cycling UK rides are usually on Sundays and around 50-60 miles.

Graham enquired about shorter rides. Adam would not be able to do a long distance. Pat noted that people used to come out to the morning coffee stop as a short ride, but we don't have them now. Becky said this was partly because there had been confusion about meeting time and leaving time. Robin said Arun-Adur Cycling Club sometimes have 20 or more on rides and so split into groups. Some clubs have a fast ("enthusiast") group and a slower group who meet at the same venue. Dave said that last week's ride had split like that. If we did this, we would need more ride leaders. Adam enquired about Arun Adur rides. They sometimes leave from Shoreham. Pat said that there are also rides on Fridays and some MTB rides but these are informal/social/mixed membership and not Cycling UK rides.

Action: It was agreed to look into running shorter rides, maybe in midweek.

Cycle Advocacy Network (Becky R)

"As part of Cycling UK's nationwide Cycle Advocacy Network, I raise issues with the council and other authorities in person, by email and on social media. I participate in Brighton and Hove City Council's Travel & Transport Partnership and a regional Transport Forum run by Transport for the South East. Tony G and Harry P are also CAN reps and have their additional areas of activity and expertise.

In May 23, progress on several agreed and funded active travel schemes in Brighton and Hove was halted by the incoming Labour administration pending a "review". Gradually, things are now moving forward slowly. Phase 1 of the A23 scheme from Argyle Rd to Stanford Avenue is due to start soon. The final phase of Valley Gardens has been approved and a contractor is being procured. A revised A259 Active Travel scheme should be approved. Brighton and Hove City Council is switching to a cabinet system for decision-making.

More cycle hangars are in place, now totalling 150. There are 13 School Streets in operation. We have Red Routes on London Rd, Preston Rd and Lewes Rd. Potholes remain a problem everywhere! Report issues via the council website or FixMyStreet."

Dave asked about the situation at Shoreham (in West Sussex) at the Sussex Pad junction. There has been a lot of delay. Buckingham contractors had financial problems. Winter weather was given as the justification for further delay. It is still possible to cross the A27 by cycle. Graham mentioned the campaign group, Shoreham-by-Cycle's good work on the problem. Becky said we had joined a demo against the scheme. Graham said West Sussex County Council is slow to improve conditions for cycling and removed the cycle lane in Shoreham. Becky said WSCC had removed all the Covid Emergency Active Travel cycle lanes across the whole of West Sussex. There was praise for the new red routes in Brighton and Pat hoped that they would be extended to Coombe Terrace where there is a lot of obstructive parking and has been for many years. Tony said that Red Route enforcement commences on 15th April 2024.

Election of Committee officers and roles for 2024/25

Position	Name	Proposed	Seconded
Secretary	Moritz	Adam	Becky
Treasurer	Adam	Tony	Guy
Chair	Becky	Pat	Hena
Rides Secretaries (Co-ordinators)	Guy, Dave	✓	✓
Safeguarding Officer	Keith	✓	✓
Group Auditor	Pat	✓	✓

Covid Officer – Role on standby, possibly Pat.

Diversity and Inclusion Champion – Action: to check if Geraldine wishes to continue in this role.

Tony will assist Moritz into the role of secretary.

John asked about whether Cycling UK give us all the contact details for members in our area. Rides could be notified to members by email. Becky explained that it is possible to send email to all the members in our area via an online Cycling UK tool, but we are not given everyone's email addresses. Cycling UK keep that information, it's only when people reply to the email that we see their email address. Becky said she always puts a link to our web page and Facebook page when sending emails and did not want to send too many emails. Graham referred to the use of one email via Meetup.

Any other business

Ride Leading

Sukey asked if there was training for ride leaders. Becky said online training is available and some of us have done that. We also did a face-to-face training in Preston Park. People wishing to lead rides might like to join a ride led by an existing ride leader to see what they do.

[Link to training: <https://www.cyclinguk.org/news/cycling-uk-launches-new-online-ride-leader-training-course-member-groups>]

Kidical Mass

Becky informed the meeting that Kidical Mass is taking place in Brighton on 28th April and in Worthing on 20th April. Robin said extra stewards would be welcome at the Worthing event.

Arun-Adur CTC rides

Robin said their Sunday rides are on their website and their Tuesday rides are on Meetup.

Close of meeting

The meeting was closed at about 13.20.

Secretary, Tony Green

<https://www.cyclinguk.org/local-groups/brighton-hove>
<https://www.facebook.com/cyclingukbrighton>